

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The action by the Examiner in this application, together with the references cited by him has been given careful consideration. Following such consideration, claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the upper surface of the refractory components are alignable to form a continuous, "inclined upper surface profile." The claim has further been amended to indicate that the upper surface profile slopes "upwardly from said leading end to said trailing end." It is believed that the foregoing amendments to the claim distinguish the present invention from U.S. Patent No. 3,972,516 to Napora. It is respectfully submitted that the '516 patent to Napora does not disclose refractory bricks that are alignable to form a continuous, inclined upper surface profile having a leading end and a trailing end, wherein the upper surface profile slopes upwardly from said leading end to said trailing end.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider claim 1 in its present form in view of the foregoing comments, and allow the application.

Respectfully submitted,


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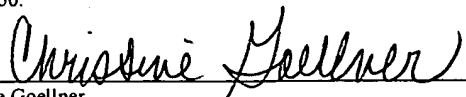
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Date: February 7, 2006


Christine Goellner